

Thompson Brands LLC

80 South Vine Street • Meriden, CT 06451

March 5, 2014

Members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee
State of Connecticut
Room 3800, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Committee Members:

RE: OPPOSITION TO SB 249

On behalf of Thompson Brands LLC, a 135 year old confectionary manufacturer located in Meriden, Connecticut, I am writing to express my opposition to SB 249, which requires many Connecticut businesses that are not offering their employees access to a retirement plan to facilitate workers' participation in a new, state-government-run retirement plan. This bill is simply unnecessary—among other things, it will add to employers' administrative burdens and costs, our employees already have access to a wide variety of retirement planning products, and it could create a vast new liability for state taxpayers.

This is simply a topic that local businesses need to be allowed to address on their own. There are already many programs in place to help people save for retirement. For example, companies can offer a 401(k) by joining existing plans through organizations such as the Connecticut Business and Industries Association, or individuals can opt to open a personal IRA or a Roth. As it is, businesses are already struggling to comply with other new government mandates such as the new healthcare law and paid sick leave.

I urge you to oppose SB 249 because it will be harmful to our state's financial services industry, Thompson Brands and its employees, and Connecticut's economy.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



Mary Filippone
HR Manager

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